

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 13 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are sought to be amended. Entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this amendment.

Applicant has made the above Amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)***

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,336,158 (hereinafter referred to as “the Martwick patent”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections since the Martwick patent does not teach or suggest each element of amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13 for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to include a similar feature of: the source device to transmit an encoded signal via a connection to the decoder, wherein the encoded signal to identify a bus segment being selected to receive the bus transaction and wherein the decoder generates the bus segment information based on the encoded signal. (hereinafter referred to as “the connection and encoded signal feature”). The connection and encoded signal feature defines how the decoder is able to provide bus segment information to the bridge independently of response to a bus transaction on the second data bus initiated by a

source device. In the present invention, via the connection and encoded signal feature, it is the encoded signal provided by the source device via the connection that is used by the decoder to generate the bus segment information.

The Martwick patent does not teach the connection and encoded signal feature as claimed. The Martwick patent discloses that, upon receipt of an address, the I/O controller 108 checks to see whether information corresponding to the received transaction address is already contained in the I/O map cache. If no match is found in the I/O map cache, the I/O controller 108 then proceeds to snoop the I/O decode map with the present transaction address to retrieve relevant decode information (see, e.g., col 7, lines 15-23 of the Martwick patent). Thus, it is through the use of the I/O map cache and I/O decode map that the I/O controller 108 of the Martwick patent retrieves relevant decode information and not via the connection and encoded signal feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Martwick patent does not teach the connection and encoded signal feature of independent claims 1, 7 and 13. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 (and their dependent claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18) are patentable over the Martwick patent under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW**

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, Molly A. McCall, at (703) 633-3311 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Intel Corporation

Dated: 6-10-05

/Molly A. McCall/ Reg. No. 46,126  
Molly A. McCall  
(703) 633-3311

P12247 RCE Preliminary Amendment

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

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